



Arlington Recycling Committee
Minutes of 2/4/16

PRESENT

Members: Co-Chair Juli Brazile, Co-Chair Gordon Jamieson, Recycling Coordinator Charlotte Milan, Ellen Callaway, Susan Stamps, Larry Slotnick, Karen Einstein
Residents: Yingzi Yang, Paul Goldberg, Pete Howard

MINUTES of 1/7/16 approved.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Charlotte, using a handout (Ref 1), reviewed the recent solid waste tonnage. Despite heavy rain, the January Recycling Center quantities were similar to December. Many cars brought Xmas trees. Charlotte's checks of curbside HH barrels have found that 68% put out 1 barrel. Survey results predicted more. She reviewed the outreach and education efforts underway or planned.

COMPOSTING PILOT: Susan has drafted an article she will post on the A-List urging neighborhood group composting.

BUSINESS RECYCLING: Susan has the hauler survey returns but has not received the customer lists provided by each hauler. She has requested this missing info. Juli provided a revised copy of the 2nd business survey and her cover letter to the CoC (Ref 2). Yingzi has updated the online version. Juli will send the survey to the Chamber this month.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP PROPOSAL: Juli discussed w/ Town Counsel. He pointed out that associate members should not assume that they would automatically be appointed when an opening happens. Gordon will find out how this idea is working on other committees.

NEW DIVERSION PROGRAMS:

Bulky waste curbside collection: DPW is considering a \$5 charge.

Mattress Recycling: Mattresses would be included in bulky waste fee program.

Local plastic bag restriction: DPW has authorized Charlotte to sticker and reject recycling that contains plastic bags curbside. It is a huge contamination problem. We discussed what we can do short of a ban, which can't happen until next year's Town Meeting. Larry will try to find out what Stop&Shop and Whole Foods do with the bags they collect. Charlotte is watching the ban in Cambridge & Somerville. Charlotte will contact CVS and Walgreen's to find out if they can also collect bags for recycling in their stores. If so, we can update the website and spread the word. Gordon suggested the final part of a campaign around plastic bags is an article pushing reusable bags around Earth Day in April.

TOWN HALL DISPLAY: Juli confirmed that the display cases in the lobby will be available for 4/1-5/15 during Town Meeting. The group discussed what the theme should be. There was agreement that the displays should illustrate Recycle Right (curbside), Composting, and Contamination and should have some info on the Recycling Center and Collection Day drop-off dates and materials.

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Advocate: Paul presented a list of Q&As (Ref 3). The group recommended that these ideas be presented to the editor with a request 1 or 2 be published under a title "Recycle Right" each week, perhaps alternating w/ some of our previous articles. Gordon to try to track down the recycling tips of some years ago for possible reuse. If we commit to a 12 week program, we need quite a few items ready to go when we start.

FaceBook: Charlotte said Town PI Officer has a concern that a DPW recycling page could draw users away from the Town's Facebook. Given that concern and the realities of our volunteer time, we may not be for Facebook. Our Recycle Right tidbits can be included in the Town's Facebook feed.

ACMI: Charlotte is preparing a Recycle Right video to be available in March.

NEXT MEETING 3/3/16 - Meetings held 1st Thursday monthly at 7:30 PM in Town Hall Annex 1st Floor

Ref 1 Coordinator's Report

Ref 2 Letter to CoC & revised survey

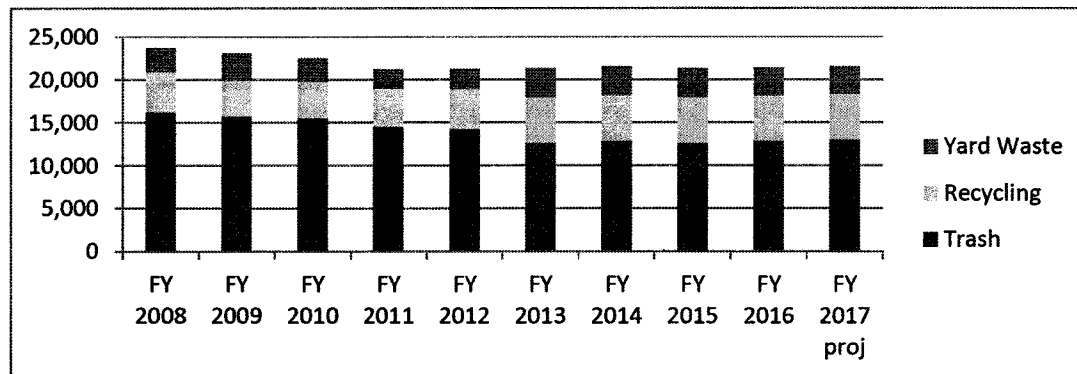
Ref 3 Recycling Q&As

Arlington Recycling Committee
Recycling Coordinator Report, February 4, 2016

Arlington Municipal Solid Waste Tonnage by Waste Category

	Trash	Recycling	Yard Waste
FY 2008	16,232	4,639	2,881
FY 2009	15,740	4,165	3,216
FY 2010	15,493	4,244	2,799
FY 2011	14,538	4,395	2,332
FY 2012	14,248	4,652	2,381
FY 2013	12,603	5,278	3,503
FY 2014	12,846	5,271	3,488
FY 2015	12,603	5,297	3,506
FY 2016	12,837	5,248	3,345
FY 2017 proj	13,000	5,321	3,280

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Recycling Center progress

Month	HH/Cars	Foam	Rigid Plastic	E-Waste
June 2015	66 HH	49	25	12
July	100 HH	52	30	40
August	120 HH	73	24	31
September	152 HH	95	50	51
October	193 HH	118	49	87
Nov CCD #s	515 cars	30 cy	20 cy	not yet reported
December	124 HH	75	32	49
January 2016	138 HH	84	24	42

— trees

ARC Expense Report

Date	Purchase	Expense	Balance
7/1/2015	Start		3000
11/14/2015	Foam	250	2,750
11/14/2015	Rigid bulk	200	2,550
5/14/2016	Foam	250 proj	
5/14/2016	Rigid bulk	200 proj	
ongoing	Compost bin share	1000	

Arlington Recycling Committee
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Municipal Solid Waste Monthly Totals			
Month	SW Tons	Rec Tons	YW Tons
February	873	295	0
March	977	409	0
April	1,086	459	473
May	1,088	414	346
June	1,119	484	211
July	1,127	446	261
August	1,047	417	197
September	1,215	427	248
October	1,137	454	295
November	1,151	466	1,097
December	1,129	576	152
January 2016	1,051	474	0

MA Solid Waste Master Plan targets: Arlington's progress

For Arlington to reach our share of the state's 2020 trash reduction goal we need to reduce trash by another 1,241 tons.

Program Updates

Recycling Center: Next event is Sat. Feb 6, 9:00 am to noon, Yingzi and Juli signed up to help, volunteers needed March 12 and April 9. Winter collection attendance holding strong.

Curbside Program: DEP Technical Assistance grant update: Bulky items and trash limits under review. 10% reduction in trash tonnage and earning MA DEP Recycling Dividend funds are the desired outcomes. Curbside program analysis shows 68% of households place 32 gallons or less of trash on the curb.

Messaging (outreach and education): Current projects include Recycle Right instructional video production (completion expected mid-March), Social Media scheduled with Town's Information Officer (Town Notices, Twitter, FaceBook), weekly (almost) Advocate articles cross posted at arlingtonma.gov/recycle, School Green Team and compost program support.

Compost programs: Rot and Roll scheduled for May 5; residential drop off opportunities under consideration.

Are you ready for Climate Change - EcoFest

Dear ,

The Arlington Recycling Committee is asking Chamber businesses to complete a short online questionnaire about their trash and recycling practices. The goal is to update information from a similar survey two years ago and prepare a report for the Chamber about the barriers to recycling in the hope that we can start conversations about solutions.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1z3H51yxHeD71wplAwHJDnmgFsLaZ0w6agjNNvh2Ldzg/viewform>

The Recycling Committee will compile the results and work with the Town Manager, the Department of Public Works, and the Director of Health & Human Services to develop presentations that address your concerns. Feel free to include comments in the survey about what would be most helpful. Arlington is committed to environmental leadership and as a community we should seek solutions together.

Feel free to forward this email to the person in your organization who can most easily complete the survey. If you have questions, you can email Juli Brazile (co-chair of the Arlington Recycling Committee) directly at juli@brazile.net.

Thank you for participating!

Beth Locke

If they are in Town's commercial trash program:

Tell us about your business
If Restaurant, the organics and oil questions
Business Contact Information

If they use a private hauler:

Tell us about your hauler
Tell us about your business
If Restaurant, the organics and oil questions
Business Contact Information

If they use both:

Tell us about your hauler
Tell us about your business
If Restaurant, the organics and oil questions
Business Contact Information

Town of Arlington - Arlington Business Recycles

We would like to understand how Arlington businesses manage their trash and recycling. Please take a moment to fill out this short questionnaire.

Do you participate in the Town of Arlington Commercial Trash program?

☐ Yes ☐ No, I use a private hauler ☐ Both

Tell us about your hauler

1. Who is your trash hauler?

<input type="checkbox"/> Bay State Disposal	<input type="checkbox"/> Northside Carting
<input type="checkbox"/> B-P Trucking	<input type="checkbox"/> Refuse Disposal
<input type="checkbox"/> E. L. Harvey & Sons	<input type="checkbox"/> Republic Services
<input type="checkbox"/> EZ Disposal Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Waste Management
<input type="checkbox"/> Food Grease Trappers Inc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Wind River Environmental
<input type="checkbox"/> JRM	<input type="checkbox"/> Wellesley Trucking
<input type="checkbox"/> Miller Waste Industries	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

2. How does your hauler pick up your trash?

☐ Curbside ☐ Dumpster

3. Does your trash hauler provide recycling services?

☐ Yes, and I am not charged extra for recycling services
☐ Yes, but I pay extra for recycling services
☐ No

Tell us about your business

Please start by indicating what type of business you are so we can generate appropriate questions.

1. Which category best describes your business or industry?

Please feel free to write-in your type of Business

<input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional services
<input type="checkbox"/> Retail store	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

2. What do you recycle (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Cardboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Glass bottles
<input type="checkbox"/> Cans	<input type="checkbox"/> Plastic bottles or containers
<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper	<input type="checkbox"/> Office Paper
<input type="checkbox"/> We do not recycle	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

3. How does your business feel about recycling?

Check all that apply. Please share any other thoughts you have.

☐ It costs too much money.
☐ We don't have space inside to collect recycling.

- ☐ We don't have room for a second dumpster for recycling.
- ☐ It takes too much time to separate recycling from trash.
- ☐ We don't know what to recycle.
- ☐ We need posters about sorting or training for staff.
- ☐ We have no problem recycling.
- ☐ Other: _____

4. Would you be interested in attending a free session by Recycling Works, a company that offers support to businesses who are starting recycling programs?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Please share any other thoughts you have: _____

As a Restaurant...

Since you are a Restaurant, please answer the following questions:

1. Do you have a service that picks up your organic waste for composting?
☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what is the name of your organics collection service? _____

2. Do you have a service that picks up your fats, oils or grease?
☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what is the name of the service that picks up your fats, oils or grease? _____

Business Contact Information

Before you click "Submit" below, please tell us a little about your business. We would like to use this information to better understand how different types of businesses manage their trash and recycling, and if some businesses have greater difficulty recycling due to their location. We hope to use this information to develop strategies to help Arlington businesses recycle more, but this step is optional.

Business Name _____

Business Address _____

Contact Name/Title _____

Contact Telephone Number _____

Contact Email _____

Thank you for your participation in this questionnaire!
Don't forget to click "Submit" so your information is saved.

RECYCLING Q&A'S

Q: What should we do with old mercury thermometers and thermostats (round style)?

A: They should be brought into the Department of Public Works (DPW) office on any business day, or to the semi-annual Community Collection Day (CCD) at the DPW on Grove Street.

Q: What should we do with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL's)?

A: They can be brought to any of the hardware stores in Arlington for recycling because the Town pays the stores to collect them. They are not trash because they contain mercury.

Q: What about old venetian blinds?

A: Either metal or hard plastic blinds can be brought to the monthly recycling day at the DPW lot on Grove St. It's best if you separate the metal or plastic from the cords and fabric.

Q: Can I recycle other hard plastics?

A: Yes. Old lawn chairs, trash cans, recycling bins, children's toys and outdoor play equipment, among many other items, can be recycled monthly at DPW.

Q: Old printer cartridges?

A: DPW will take them on any business day; there's a drop-off box inside their building on Grove St. They can also be brought to the monthly recycling day.

Q: I have lots of plastic screw-on caps from juice and milk containers, shampoo bottles and other containers. Can I recycle them?

A: These are also hard plastics that can be brought to the monthly recycling day. They should be collected at home and placed in a transparent plastic bag, as they are individually too small to successfully pass through the standard curbside recycling process.

Q: Which batteries can be recycled and which should be thrown in the trash?

A: Alkaline batteries should be thrown in the trash; Nickel-cadmium batteries can be brought to Arlington hardware stores or to DPW.

Q: How can you tell which plastic bags can be brought to Stop & Shop or Whole Foods for recycling and which are trash?

A: If the bag when scrunched makes a loud crinkling sound, it's trash. If the plastic is stretchy it can be recycled. That goes for any stretchable plastic film, not only bags.

Q: What about Styrofoam?

A: Keep different types separate and bring it to the monthly recycling day. Please remove all tape and labels. Clean Styrofoam food containers including coffee cups can also be recycled. Please separate these from the rigid white Styrofoam used for product packaging, coolers, etc. We also accept foam-packing peanuts. Please keep these in a separate bag. We will return your bags to you at DPW if you wish.

Q: I've been adding shredded paper to the curbside paper I recycle. Is this OK?

A: Shredded paper can be recycled curbside but needs to be put in a separate clear plastic bag. The small bits of paper, if recycled loosely, will gum up the machinery used in the recycling facility. You can bring paper you wish to shred to a UPS store, which will charge \$1 per pound to shred it. They will also dispose of it.

Q: What happens to the textiles and Styrofoam I bring to DPW?

A: Foam is picked up by a Leominster, MA company called ReFoamIt. They process it into 50 lb. blocks that are sold to the materials/commodities market for the plastics industry. Textiles are sorted into resellable items or bulk material. The bulk material not suitable for re-use is recycled into industrial rags and into the material used inside automobile interior/dashboards